

Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for his careful consideration of the application.

Claims 1 - 14 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1 - 14 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaneko et al. (US Patent Pub. No. 2002-032013) ("Kaneko") in view of well-known art. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In claim 1, Applicants recite a method for making written documents available to the visually impaired. The method includes generating a cover sheet and scanning a document using the cover sheet. The cover sheet includes machine readable information and tactilely readable information.

In claim 8, Applicants recite a cover sheet for scanning a document that includes machine readable markings and tactilely readable markings.

The Examiner should withdraw the rejection to claims 1 and 8 as the Examiner has not shown that claims 1 or 8 would be obvious over the disclosure of Kaneko in view of the prior art generally. Specifically, the Examiner has not shown that a cover sheet for scanning a document wherein the cover sheet includes tactilely readable markings would be obvious. The Examiner cites paragraphs 0008, 0015, 0021, and 0024, as well as fax cover sheets to support this conclusion. However, the Examiner has provided no reason for adding tactilely readable markings to a cover sheet. The passages cited in Kaneko all appear to be about converting standard optically interpretable information into Braille or audio information. Scannable cover sheets have also existed for a number of years. The idea of including tactilely readable information on a scannable cover sheet does not appear to be suggested by or otherwise fall out of the combination of these concepts. A scannable cover sheet with tactile markings would assist a user in correctly emailing or faxing documents to a desired location. For the foregoing reasons claims 1 and 8 should be allowed.

Claims 2 – 7 and 9 – 14 should be allowed if claims 1 and 8 are allowed as claims 2 – 7 depend from claim 1 and claims 9 – 14 depend from claim 8.

Conclusion

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment. However, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025. This also constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and authorization to charge all fees therefor to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

A telephone interview is respectfully requested at the number listed below prior to any further Office Action, i.e., if the Examiner has any remaining questions or issues to address after this paper. The undersigned will be happy to discuss any further Examiner-proposed amendments as may be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

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